

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 19, 26, 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 48, and delete claims 37, 45-47 and 98 as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A filtration system comprising at least one flexible filter for filtering a fluid and cleaning apparatus for projecting a flow of fluid onto the at least one flexible filter; wherein, in use, the fluid to be filtered passes through the at least one flexible filter and causes the at least one flexible filter to be deflected in a first direction, and the flow of fluid projected onto the at least one flexible filter from the cleaning apparatus causes the at least one flexible filter to be deflected in a second direction.
2. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one filter defines a chamber.
3. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one filter is deflected inwardly, into said chamber, by the passage of the fluid to be filtered through the at least one filter and is deflected outwardly, out of said chamber, by the flow of fluid projected from the cleaning apparatus.
4. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a rotatable member.
5. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible filter is supported by a frame member.

6. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible filter is bowed when it is deflected in said first and second directions.
7. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1 comprising a plurality of flexible filters, wherein the flexible filters are arranged to form a cylinder.
8. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one flexible filter is made of polyester.
9. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one filter is made of a plastics material having anti-bacterial properties.
10. (Withdrawn) A filtration system operable in a filtration mode and a purging mode, the system comprising at least one flexible filter; wherein, in use, said at least one flexible filter is deflected in a first direction when the system is operating in said filtration mode, and is deflected in a second direction when the system is operating in said purging mode.
11. (Withdrawn) A filtration system for filtering particulate material from a fluid, the filtration system comprising at least one flexible filter capable of being deflected by the flow of fluid through it.
12. (Withdrawn) A filter for filtering particulates from a flow of fluid, the filter comprising at least one flexible filter mesh capable of being deflected by the flow of fluid through it.
13. (Withdrawn) A filter as claimed in claim 12, wherein the filter is a cylindrical filter.
14. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a filter for a filtration system, the filter comprising at least one filter mesh and a frame, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) locating said at least one filter mesh in a mould; and
- (b) injecting plastics material into the mould to form said frame and to fix said at least one filter mesh in said frame.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said at least one filter mesh is mounted in a support member and said support member and the filter mesh are located in the mould prior to the injection of said plastics material.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said at least one filter mesh is flexible and, in use, is capable of being deflected by the flow of fluid through it.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said filter is a cylindrical filter

18. (Withdrawn) A filter manufactured by the method claimed in claim 14.

19. (Currently Amended] A filtration system for filtering particulates from a liquid, the system comprising a sealed vessel suitable for supporting a pressure less than atmospheric pressure, and a filter for filtering particulates from said liquid, the filtration system further comprising a filter cleaning apparatus configured to project a cleaning liquid supplied by a separate dedicated pump onto a downstream side of the filter to dislodge particulates trapped on an upstream side thereof, the filter cleaning apparatus comprising a rotatable member rotatably mounted on a tubular member having at least one side-opening configured to supply cleaning liquid to said rotatable member, wherein a gap is provided between the tubular member and the rotatable member configured to allow cleaning fluid to escape and maintain the bearing surfaces free of particulates.

20. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19, wherein a first chamber is defined in the sealed vessel and the filter is provided in said first chamber.

21. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising air evacuation means suitable for evacuating air from the system.
22. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the air evacuation means is arranged to evacuate air from the sealed vessel.
23. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the air evacuation means is a venturi.
24. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 23 further comprising a pump suitable for reducing the pressure in said sealed vessel to cause liquid to be drawn into the vessel.
25. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the venturi is connected on the pressure side of the pump.
26. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 24 ~~or 25~~ further comprising a valve sub-system operable to change the connection of the pump to the sealed vessel.
27. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the valve sub-system is operable to connect the pump upstream of the sealed vessel to cause the system to operate in a purging mode.
28. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 27, wherein, when the system is operating in said purging mode, the pump introduces a purging liquid into the sealed vessel to flush filtered particulates through a discharge outlet.

29. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the valve sub-system is operable to open and/or close the discharge outlet.

30. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the purging liquid is liquid taken from upstream of the filter.

31. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 30, wherein the valve sub-system is operable to connect the pump downstream of the sealed vessel to cause the system to operate in a filtration mode.

32. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 31, wherein, when the system is operating in the filtration mode, the pump draws the liquid supply into the system through a system inlet, the system inlet being connected to at least one conduit having at least one opening.

33. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a biological filter.

34. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said biological filter is provided in a second chamber having an annular cross-section and extending circumferentially around the sealed vessel.

35. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 34, wherein biological filter comprises media and the inlet to the second chamber is arranged such that, when liquid is drawn into the second chamber, the media are agitated.

36. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a UV light module.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1937 further comprising a flow compensating device for increasing the proportion of the cleaning liquid directed to the filter cleaning apparatus when the filter is partially blocked.

39. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 38, wherein the flow compensating device is a spring-loaded valve.

40. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1937, wherein the cleaning liquid is liquid filtered by the filter.

41. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 2637, wherein the valve sub-system is operable to connect the pump downstream of the sealed vessel to cause the system to operate in a filtration mode and the cleaning liquid is supplied to the filter cleaning apparatus only when the system is operating in a filtration mode.

42. (Original) A Filtration system as claimed in claim 41, wherein the supply of cleaning liquid is controlled by the valve-subsystem.

43. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed ~~in any one of claims~~ 2637, wherein the valve sub-system is operable to connect the pump upstream of the sealed vessel to cause the system to operate in a purging mode; when the system is operating in said purging mode, the pump introduces a purging liquid into the sealed vessel to flush filtered particulates through a discharge outlet, the purging liquid being introduced into the

sealed vessel through said filter cleaning apparatus when the system operates in said purging mode.

44. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1937 further comprising a pump suitable for reducing the pressure in said sealed vessel to cause liquid to be drawn into the vessel, wherein the cleaning liquid is supplied to the filter cleaning apparatus by the pump.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A filtration system as claimed in claim 1947 further comprising a closure member for closing an end of the tubular member and for re-directing liquid introduced into the tubular member through the at least one side-opening.

49. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 48, wherein the closure member is generally frusto-conical in shape.

50. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 48, wherein the closure member is fixedly attached to the tubular member.

51. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 48, wherein the closure member is integrally formed with the tubular member.

52. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the filter is a cylindrical mesh defining a third chamber.

53. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 52 wherein the filter is provided in said sealed vessel and the liquid supply is introduced into the sealed vessel to the outside of the cylindrical mesh.

54. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the filter is provided in an upper portion of the sealed vessel to facilitate, in use, the settling of particulates in a lower portion thereof.

55. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 54, wherein at least one baffle plate is provided in the sealed vessel.

56. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the at least one baffle plate is hollow frusto-conical in shape.

57. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 54, wherein a settling chamber is defined in a lower portion of the sealed vessel.

58. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 57, wherein the settling chamber is provided beneath the filter.

59. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 57, wherein the settling chamber is defined by a cylindrical member open at its upper end.

60. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 57, wherein the settling chamber is provided with an outlet for evacuating particulates.

61. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a pressure relief valve.

62. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 61 wherein the pressure relief valve is operable to prevent the pressure in the sealed vessel falling below a predetermined level.

63. (Original) A filtration system as claimed in claim 61 further comprising a pump suitable for reducing the pressure in said sealed vessel to cause liquid to be drawn into the vessel., wherein the pressure relief valve is operable to place an outlet of the pump in communication with an inlet of the pump when the pressure in the sealed vessel falls below said predetermined level.

64. (Withdrawn) A filtration system for filtering particulates from a fluid, the filtration system comprising a filter and a chamber for collecting particulates; the system further comprising at least one baffle member for reducing the velocity of fluid in the chamber and/or the velocity of fluid entering said chamber.

65. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 64, wherein said at least one baffle member is ring-shaped in plan form.

66. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 64, wherein said at least one baffle member is hollow frusto-conical in shape.

67. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 64, wherein said at least one baffle member has a downwardly sloping top surface.

68. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 64 comprising first and second baffle members, wherein the first baffle member has a first top surface and the second baffle

member has a second top surface, the first top surface sloping downwardly in a first direction and the second top surface sloping downwardly in a second direction, said first and second directions being substantially opposite to each other.

69. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 68, wherein the first and second baffle members are ring-shaped in plan form, the first direction being radially outwards and the second direction being radially inwards.

70. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 69, wherein the first baffle member is provided above the second baffle member.

71. (Withdrawn) A container for collecting particulates in a fluid filtration system, the container having a chamber and being provided with at least one baffle member for reducing the velocity of fluid in the chamber and/or the velocity of fluid entering said chamber.

72. (Withdrawn) A container as claimed in claim 71, wherein the or each baffle plate is ring-shaped in plan form.

73. (Withdrawn) A container as claimed in claim 71, wherein the or each baffle member is hollow frusto-conical in shape.

74. (Withdrawn) A container as claimed in claim 71, wherein said at least one baffle member has a downwardly sloping top surface.

75. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a filtration system to filter particulates from a liquid, the method including a filtration step and a purging step;

the filtration step comprising reducing the pressure in a sealed vessel below atmospheric pressure to cause liquid to be drawn into the sealed vessel, and passing liquid to be filtered through a filter;

the purging step comprising introducing a purging liquid into the sealed vessel to expel particulates filtered from the liquid through a discharge outlet.

76. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 75, wherein a pump reduces the pressure in the sealed vessel by drawing liquid out of the sealed vessel; and the purging liquid is introduced into the sealed vessel by the same pump.

77. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 76, wherein a changeover valve is operated to change the pump connections to the sealed vessel to change the operational mode of the filtration system.

78. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 75, wherein the purging liquid is liquid taken from the same source as the liquid to be filtered.

79. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus comprising a rotatably mounted member having at least one outlet for projecting cleaning liquid onto a surface of a filter, the rotatable member having a channel connecting at least one inlet aperture to said at least one outlet, the rotatable member being mounted on a tubular member having at least one side-opening therein, the at least one side-opening being in liquid communication with said at least one inlet aperture.

80. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein the rotatable member comprises a central collar, said collar extending substantially around said tubular member and being at least partially open to the interior thereof to define said at least one inlet aperture.

81. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein first and second annular projections are provided on the outer surface of the tubular member to axially locate said rotatable member.

82. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein a closure member is provided for directing liquid introduced into the tubular member radially outwardly into the at least one inlet aperture in the rotatable member.

83. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the closure member is frusto-conical in shape.

84. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus comprising a rotatable member having at least one outlet for projecting fluid onto a surface of a filter, the rotatable member comprising a collar rotatably mounted on a support member and there being provided at least one fluid pathway for allowing fluid to escape between the support member and the collar.

85. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein a first guide member is provided on the support member to limit upwards displacement of the rotatable member relative to the support member; wherein the fluid pathway or one of said fluid pathways is formed by a gap provided between the collar and said first guide member.

86. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein the gap between the collar and the first guide member is less than or equal to 1mm.

87. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein the first guide member extends around the support member.

88. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein a second guide member is provided on the support member to limit downwards displacement of the rotatable member relative to the support member; wherein the fluid pathway or one of said fluid pathways is formed by a gap provided between the collar and said second guide member.

89. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein the gap between the collar and the second guide member is less than or equal to 1mm.

90. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein the second guide member extends around the support member.

91. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein said at least one fluid pathway is annular and extends substantially around the support member.

92. (Withdrawn) A filter cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the support member is a tubular member.

93. (Withdrawn) A filtration system comprising a chamber housing a biological filter media, wherein liquid to be biologically filtered is introduced into the chamber through an inlet, and said inlet is arranged such that, in use, the liquid agitates the filter media.

94. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 93, wherein the inlet is arranged such that, in use, the liquid is introduced into the chamber in a tangential direction for creating a rotational flow in said chamber.

95. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 93, wherein the chamber is annular in cross-section.

96. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 95, wherein the annular chamber extends circumferentially around a central chamber.
97. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 96, wherein said central chamber houses a mechanical filter.
98. (Cancelled)
99. (Withdrawn) A sealed vessel to be used in the filtration system of any one of claim 1.
100. (Withdrawn) A vessel for use in a filtration system, the vessel comprising a collection chamber for collecting particulates filtered from a fluid, wherein a settling chamber is provided in said collection chamber.
101. (Withdrawn) A vessel as claimed in claim 100 further comprising a first discharge outlet to facilitate expulsion of filtered particulates from the collection chamber and a second discharge outlet to facilitate expulsion of filtered particulates from the settling chamber.
102. (Withdrawn) A vessel as claimed in claim 100 wherein the settling chamber is defined by a cylindrical sidewall and is open at its upper end.
103. (Withdrawn) A vessel as claimed in claim 100 further comprising a baffle plate.
104. (Withdrawn) A vessel as claimed in claim 103 wherein the baffle plate is hollow frusto-conical in shape.
105. (Withdrawn) A filtration system comprising a vessel as claimed in claim 100.

106. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 105 further comprising a cylindrical filter.

107. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 106 wherein the settling chamber is provided below the filter.

108. (Withdrawn) A filtration system as claimed in claim 107 wherein the settling chamber is cylindrical and the settling chamber and the filter are arranged co-axially.